

Amendment No. 1 to HB2693

Keisling
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 2679

House Bill No. 2693*

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) The general assembly shall appoint a chaplain in joint session at the start of each biennial legislative session by voting on nominations made from the floor.

(b) Nominees shall:

(1) Be an ordained minister;

(2) Have provided spiritual guidance and counseling to the members of the general assembly in the past; and

(3) Be of upstanding moral character and beyond reproach.

(c) The nominee receiving the majority of the votes is appointed to serve as the chaplain for the general assembly for the duration of the biennial session for which the chaplain was nominated and must be given:

(1) Access to each building where staff and member offices are located, including the second floor of the state capitol;

(2) An assigned parking space;

(3) An office;

(4) Equipment and supplies as necessary to fulfill the duties of a chaplain, including, but not limited to, a computer, a printer, a copy machine and scanner, paper, and other usual and customary office supplies; and

(5) Reimbursement for expenses, including mileage and per diem in accordance with § 3-1-106.

(d) Costs associated with the items under subsection (c) must be shared by both chambers of the general assembly and covered with discretionary funds available to each chamber.

(e) The speaker of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives may, at their discretion, provide additional compensation from available discretionary funds.

(f) The creation of a chaplaincy does not affect the tradition in both chambers of permitting a religious leader to open a floor session of either chamber. The chaplain may open a floor session upon request of the speaker of the senate or the speaker of the house of representatives, as applicable.

(g) A chaplain appointed pursuant to this section may be removed from office for any reason in the same manner as the chaplain was appointed. The general assembly may appoint a replacement to serve as chaplain in accordance with this section for the remainder of the biennial legislative session.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.